

Northern California News and Events

Hosting a Forum Between Federal Regulators and Northern California Hospitals

Recently, I hosted a forum in Red Bluff with representatives from local hospitals and officials from Medicare and the Department of Health and Human Services.



The purpose of the session was to give hospital administrators an opportunity to ask questions and share their views on Medicare policies and regulations. Participants discussed a number of key issues facing rural Northern California hospitals, including the cost of implementing new electronic record-keeping systems, the challenge of recruiting physicians to rural areas, and efforts to reduce infections and improve coordination of care. I believe it's important for federal agencies to hear directly from the people who are affected by the policies they implement. As the chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health, I plan to use the input I receive from this and similar forums to work toward policies that improve the quality of health care and cut back on unnecessary paperwork for medical providers.

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Meeting with Beale AFB's 940th Wing

I recently had the opportunity to meet with the senior leadership of the 940th Wing at Northern California's Beale Air Force Base.



The 940th Wing is part of the Air Force Reserve Command and supports our nation's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) forces, while also performing command and control operations. Col. Kevin Cavanagh and Col. Jon Ellis, commander of the Wing and commander of the 940th Operations Group respectively, stressed the importance of the Reserve component in our armed forces. Chief Master Sergeant Jason Henderson emphasized the importance of GI education benefits in recruiting and retaining personnel. I'm honored to represent Beale AFB in Congress and will continue to work to provide our airmen, soldiers,

sailors, and Marines with the resources and equipment they need to ensure that our armed forces remain the strongest in the world.

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Celebrating Veterans Day

I thought you might be interested in reading my prepared remarks commemorating Veterans Day that I gave at the annual Veterans Day dinner at Chico Elks Lodge. As I said in the speech, our veterans “are part of a long line of heroes, beginning at our nation’s founding, who have won and preserved our freedoms through their selflessness and courage...I would like to say to all of our veterans here today: You have helped to keep the United States of America strong and free. Your service will never be forgotten.”

You can find the text of the remarks [here](#) .

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Right Now

Bill I Authored to Repeal 3% Withholding is Signed into Law

On November 21, the President signed into law the legislation I authored ([H.R. 674](#)) to permanently repeal the 3% withholding tax, which would have required government agencies at all levels to withhold 3% of their payments to businesses for goods and services. The strong, bipartisan vote in both chambers of Congress demonstrates that both parties can work together to make it easier for small businesses in our nation to create jobs. Coming from a small business background, I can attest that businesses look several years ahead when they're deciding how to invest and that they frequently operate on slim profit margins. It is not surprising that repealing 3% withholding is supported by dozens of businesses as well as state and local governments.

I spoke on the House floor in support of the legislation. You can watch a video of my speech [here](#)

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Obama Administration Blocks Job-Creating Pipeline Project

I [joined several other representatives](#) in urging President Obama to promptly reverse the State Department's recent decision to delay approval for the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline until 2013. The proposed pipeline would move up to 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Canada to refineries in Texas—roughly the same amount of oil we import from the socialist regime in Venezuela. It would help stabilize our oil supply while creating thousands of jobs for American manufacturers and construction workers. The State Department must approve the application for the pipeline because it crosses the U.S.–Canadian border.

I believe moving forward with this project is a commonsense step toward strengthening both our energy security and our economy. Unfortunately, the State Department yielded to political pressure from groups that oppose the project. Its decision was made despite the fact that the pipeline has undergone extensive environmental impact studies and expert scientific review, and suggests that the Obama Administration is out of touch with American families and small businesses who are struggling with high energy prices and a sluggish economy. Accordingly, I believe the President should intercede immediately and instruct the State Department to approve the pipeline's application without any further delays.

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Recent Past

President's Health Care Law Heads to Supreme Court

Recently, the Supreme Court announced that it will review whether several key components of President Obama's health care law are constitutional. For example, the Court will determine whether the federal government overstepped its constitutional powers by requiring every American to buy government-approved health insurance. I believe this provision is clearly unconstitutional, and several federal judges have reached the same conclusion. Restoring limits to the size and scope of government will help to safeguard our cherished freedoms, and I look forward to the Supreme Court hearing oral arguments next spring and issuing a definitive ruling on the law shortly thereafter. Regardless of what the high court decides, I believe Congress should [repeal this law in its entirety](#) because it fails to reduce health costs, jeopardizes the

health coverage that millions of Americans currently have, and imposes severe hardships on job creators. Indeed, with over 14 million Americans already out of work, I believe repealing and replacing ObamaCare is essential to creating a more favorable environment for our nation's job-creating innovators and small businesses.

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House's Failure to Pass Balanced Budget Amendment Disappointing

The House voted 261-165 in favor of amending the Constitution to require a balanced budget, but the amendment failed to attain the two-thirds support required to pass. As the national debt crossed the unthinkable \$15 trillion mark, I am very disappointed that the House failed to pass a balanced budget amendment. This demonstrates that many members of Congress are still not serious about cutting spending. Fiscal responsibility has been all too rare in recent years when it should be at the heart of how Congress operates. Unless we address our severe debt crisis, we will not have an economy that is strong enough to offer a favorable environment for job creation.

I spoke on the House floor in favor of the amendment. You can watch a video of my speech [here](#) as well as read the text of the speech [here](#).

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